

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, and 17-23 are in the application.

With respect to the objection to the drawings, submitted herewith is a replacement Fig. 1 which shows one of the grooves 52 having a lesser profile depth than the adjacent profile groove 52 located on the side of the profile groove facing the bottom of the tooth. Accordingly, the feature of claim 9 is now shown in the drawings. The specification has been amended accordingly.

With respect to the objections to claims 4 and 12, the Examiner will note that the suggested corrections have been made.

Concerning the objection to claims 7 and 8 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c), the Examiner will note that claim 6 has been amended to delete the ranges which are separately recited in claims 7 and 8.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the subject matter of claim 9 has been included in claim 1. Claim 17 has been written in independent form by adding the subject matter of claim 1. In addition, claim 19 has been written in independent form by including the subject matter of original claim 1.

Accordingly, inasmuch as the Examiner has indicated that claims 9, 11-15 and 17-23 are allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations and any intervening claims, it is submitted that the claims in the application are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 28, 2005.

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